Climate Prediction Center's Central Asia Hazards Outlook
January 29 – February 4, 2015

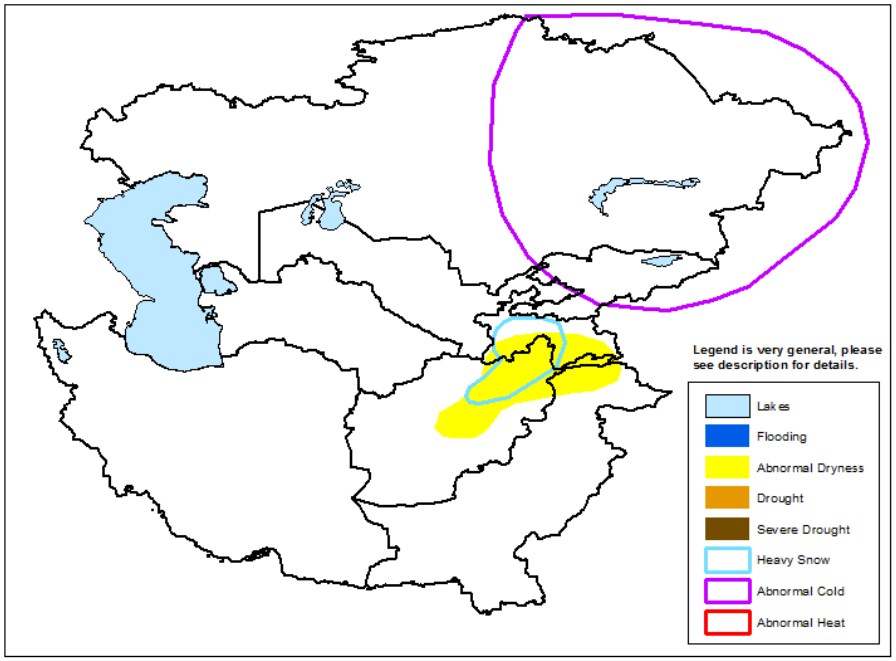
Temperatures:

Temperatures averaged at or above-normal across Central Asia from January 18-24 but much colder temperatures affected northern Kazakhstan recently. On January 24, minimum temperatures fell below -35 degrees C across the northern half of Kazakhstan. During the next week, the GFS model indicates that minimum temperature anomalies are predicted to average more than 8 degrees C below-normal across eastern Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Therefore, an abnormal cold hazard is posted for these areas. Minimum temperatures below -35 degrees C are forecast for eastern Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

Precipitation

A strong low pressure system tracked across the region from January 19 to 21 and resulted in widespread precipitation (10 – 50 mm, or more) across southern Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan. The GFS model indicates additional rain and high-elevation snow during the next week with more than 25 mm (liquid equivalent) of precipitation forecast for Tajikistan and northeast Afghanistan where a heavy snow hazard is posted.

Despite the recent increase in precipitation, snow water equivalent values are currently running well below-normal for Afghanistan. Therefore, an abnormal dryness polygon remains posted for the higher elevations of Afghanistan and adjacent areas of Tajikistan.



Note: The Hazards outlook map is based on current weather/climate information, short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week), and assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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